

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9272

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL NZ

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH GNZ ON MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WALDMANN AND ECON/COM COUNSELOR HARTWICK MET WITH GNZ DELEGATION TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING LONDON CONFERENCE ON MARITIME SATELLITE. GNZ DELEGATION CONSISTED OF MR. S M THOMPSON, DIRECTOR OF OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT; MR. ROBERT BUNDLE, PRINCIPAL, RADIO DIVISION; CAPTAIN BOYES, MARINE DIVISION, TRANSPORT MINISTRY, MR ALLEN DOYLE, DEPUTY HEAD OF LEGAL DIV., MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MR THOMPSON ADMITTED THAT GNZ HAD NOT GIVEN GREAT ATTENTION TO THE MARITIME SATELLITE PROBLEM BUT HAD FOLLOWED THE WORK OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS FROM A DISTANCE. THOMPSON WAS CONVINCED THAT NEW ZEALAND HAD AN INTEREST IN THE PROGRAMME AND WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE LONDON CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH GNZ DELEGATION WAS NOT YET DETERMINED.

2. WALDMANN DESCRIBED US CONCERNS, OUTLINED TWO AGREEMENT APPROACH, AND DISCUSSED OTHER MAJOR ISSUES AS IN PREVIOUS BI-LATERAL CONSULTATIONS.

3. GNZ RAISED QUESTION ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALLER COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN INMARSAT AND QUESTIONED WHETHER LARGER STATES DID NOT HAVE SOME OBLIGATION TO PICK UP THEIR COSTS OF PARTICIPATION.

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GNZ ALSO FELT THAT THE VIENNA FORMULA FOR MEMBERSHIP

(UN PLUS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES) MAY NOT IN PRACTICE
RAISE PROBLEMS SINCE THAT DEFINITION MIGHT INCLUDE ALL
ITU MEMBERS.

4. GNZ IS CONCERNED WITH THE NEED FOR COORDINATION
ON FREQUENCIES, SATELLITE POSITIONS, AND OTHER TECHNICAL
MATTERS. GNZ NOTED THE ABSENCE OF ANY PROVISION IN US
DRAFTS REQUIRING COORDINATION WITH ITU. GNZ ALSO NOTED
HOEVER THAT THE ITU RADIO REGULATIONS AND OTHER
OBLIGATIONS PLACED ON STATES WOULD IN LARGE MEASURE
SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTICIPATION BY US DESIGNATED
ENTITY GNZ HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPAL TO SUCH
PARTICIPATION OR TO THE TWO AGREEMENT SOLUTION. THE GNZ ALSO
WOULD LIKE TO AVOID FORECLOSING THE QUESTION OF USING
INTELSAT, AND BELIEVES THIS MAY BE AN ACCEPTABLE AND ECONOMIC
SOLUTION, THE CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO GNZ,
WHO APPEAR TO HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THREE COMMITTEES, TO
INTER SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND TO SECOND CONFERENCE
SESSION IN 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS. WALDMANN PROMISED TO
KEEP GNZ INFORMED ON OUR POSITIONS, TO FORWARD DRAFT OF TWO
AGREEMENTS BEFORE CONFERENCE IF POSSIBLE, AND TO STAY IN
TOUCH AT LONDON CONFERENCE.
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